NUMB. L.

The GUARDIAN.

O Rus quando ego te Aſpiciam—— Hor.

Friday, May 8. 1713.

THE Perplexities and Diverſions, recounted in the following Letter, are repreſented with ſome pleaſantry; I ſhall therefore make this Epiſtle the Entertainment of the Day.

To NESTOR IRONSIDE, *Eſq;*

SIR,

'THE time of going into the Country drawing near, I am extremely enlivened with the agreeable Memorial of every Thing that contributed to my Happineſs when I was laſt there. In the recounting of which, I ſhall not dwell ſo much upon the Verdure of the Fields, the Shade of Woods, the Trilling of Rivulets, or Melody of Birds, as upon ſome particular Satisfactions, which, though not merely Rural, muſt naturally create a Deſire of ſeeing that Place, where only I have met with them. As to my Paſſage I ſhall make no other mention, than of the Pompous Pleaſure of being whirl'd along with ſix Horſes, the eaſie Grandeur of Lolling in an handſom Chariot, the Reciprocal Satisfaction the Inhabitants of all Towns and Villages received from, and returned to Paſſengers of ſuch Diſtinction. The Gentleman's Seat (with whom, among others, I had the Honour to go down) is the Remains of an ancient Caſtle, which has ſuffered very much for the Loyalty of its Inhabitants. The Ruins of the ſeveral Turrets and Strong-Holds, gave my Imagination more pleaſant Exerciſe than the moſt magnificent Structure could do, as I look upon the honourable Wounds of a defaced Soldier with more Veneration than the moſt exact proportion of a beautiful Woman. As this Deſolation renewed in me a general Remembrance of the Calamities of the late Civil Wars, I began to grow deſirous to know the Hiſtory of the particular Scene of Action in this Place of my Abode. I here muſt beſeech you not to think me tedious in mentioning a certain Barber, who for his general Knowledge of Things and Perſons, may be had in equal Eſtimation with any of that Order among the *Romans*. This Perſon was allowed to be the beſt Hiſtorian upon the Spot; and the Sequel of my Tale will diſcover, that I did not chuſe him ſo much for the ſoft Touch of his Hand, as his Abilities to entertain me with an Account of the Leaguer Time, as he calls it, the moſt Authentick Relations of which, thro' all parts of the Town, are derived from this Perſon. I found him, indeed, extremely Loquatious, but withal a Man of as much Veracity as an Impetuous Speaker could be. The firſt time he came to Shave me, before he applied his Weapon to my Chin, he gave me a flouriſh with it, very like the Salutation the Prize-fighters give the Company with theirs, which made me apprehend Inciſion would as certainly enſue. The Dexterity of this Overture conſiſts in playing the Razor, with a nimble Wriſt, mighty near the Noſe without touching it; convincing him therefore of the dangerous Conſequence of ſuch an unneceſſary Agility, with much Perſuaſion I ſuppreſſed it. During the peruſal of my Face, he gives me ſuch Accounts of the Families in the Neighbourhood, as Tradition and his own Obſervation have furniſhed him with. Whenever the precipitation of his Account makes him blunder, his cruel Right-Hand correſponds, and the Razor diſcovers on my Face, at what part of it he was in the peaceable, and at what part in the bloody Incidents of his Narrative. But I had long before learned to expoſe my Perſon to any Difficulties that might tend to the Improvement of my Mind. His Breath, I found, was very Peſtilential, and being obliged to utter a great deal of it, for the carrying on his Narrations, I beſeeched him, before he came into my Room, to go into the Kitchen and mollifie it with a Breakfaſt. When he had taken off my Beard, with part of my Face, and dreſſed my Wounds in the Capacity of a Barber-Surgeon, we traverſed the Outworks about the Caſtle, where I received particular Information in what Places any of Note among the Beſiegers, or the Beſieged, received any Wound, and I was carried always to the very Spot where the Fact was done, howſoever dangerous (Scaling part of the Walls, or ſtumbling over looſe Stones) my Approach to ſuch Place might be, it being conceived impoſſible to arrive at a true Knowledge of thoſe Matters, without this hazardous Explanation upon them; inſomuch that I received more Confuſions from theſe Speculations, than I probably could have done, had I been the moſt bold Adventurer at the Demolition of this Caſtle. This, as all other his Informations, the Barber ſo lengthened and huſbanded with Digreſſions, that he had always ſome thing new to offer, wiſely concluding, that when he had finiſhed the Part of an Hiſtorian, I ſhould have no occaſion for him as a Barber.

'When-

(Price Two Pence.)